

## Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 NIC-01 DRC-01 /128 W

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R 041450Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0418

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

CINCLANT

USCINCEUR

USMISSION USUN

DIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PO

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SUBJ: PORTUGUESE RIGHT TO UNIFY

REF: LISBON A-76; LISBON 3469

SUMMARY: THREE RIGHTIST PARTIES HAVE ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO FORM ELECTORAL COALITION. NEW COALITION UNLIKELY TO PROVE SUCCESSFUL IN COMPETITION WITH EITHER PPD OR CDS FOR MUCH OF CONSERVATIVE VOTE. END SUMMARY.

1. LEADERS OF PARTIDO DO PROGRESSO - MOVIMENTO FEDERALISTA PORTUGUES (PP-MFP), PARTIDO TRABALHISTA DEMOCRATICO PORTUGUES (PTDP) AND PARTIDO LIBERAL HAVE ISSUED JOINT COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCING THEIR INTENTION TO ESTABLISH AN ELECTORAL COALITION (TO BE KNOWN AS FRENTE DEMOCRATICA UNIDA -FDU) TO CONTEST ELECTIONS TO CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE SOMETIME NEXT SPRING. BRIEF COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCED PARTIES' GOAL OF PROVIDING ELECTORATE WITH A "NON-MARXIST" DEMOCRATIC ALTERNATIVE, PROMISING TO WORK FOR ACHIEVEMENT OF THOSE PORTIONS OF ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT'S PROGRAM REFERRING TO TRANS-MISSION OF GOVERNMENTAL POWERS TO DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE ORGANS. COMMUNIQUE ALSO SPOKE OF CREATING CONDITIONS IN WHICH "PARTISAN PLURALISM" IS ASSURED.

2. COMMENT: THIS MOVE NOT UNEXPECTED AND IS OUTCOME OF SEVERAL MONTHS OF INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS AMONG RIGHT-OF-CENTER PARTIES. THESE PARTIES BELIEVE UNITY NECESSARY TO MEET CHALLENGE FROM LEFT. EXPECTATION THAT PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT WILL PROMULGATE LAW ON POLITICAL PARTIES IN NEAR FUTURE IS PROBABLE CAUSE FOR ANNOUNCEMENT AT THIS TIME. (LAW GENERALLY EXPECTED TO CONTAIN PROVISIONS ESTABLISHING NUMERICAL MINIMUMS - WHETHER REFERRING TO PARTY MEMBERS OR SIGNATURES ON PETITIONS IS UNCLEAR - WHICH POLITICAL GROUPS MUST MEET IN ORDER TO QUALIFY AS "PARTIES", ENTITLED THEREBY TO PARTICIPATE IN ELECTIONS).

3. FDU UNLIKELY TO BE MUCH MORE THAN THE SUM OF ITS THREE PARTS, NONE OF WHICH IN PAST HAS SHOWN SIGNS OF BEING A SERIOUS CHALLENGE TO MORE LIBERAL PPD OR CDS. COALITION SUFFERS FROM LACK OF MONEY AND GRASS ROOTS ORGANIZATION, AS WELL AS FROM ITS "PSEUDO-FASCIST" IMAGE. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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(THIS LABEL MAY OR MAY NOT BE JUST, BUT IT IS BEING APPLIED BY PARTIES ON THE LEFT). FEW OBSERVERS EXPECT THIS COALITION GROUP TO OBTAIN MORE THAN 5-10 PERCENT OF VOTE IN UPCOMING ELECTIONS. IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT THE FARTHEST RIGHT PARTY (MPP) AND MORE LIBERAL PARTIES (LIKE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS AND MONARQUISTS) EITHER WERE NOT INVITED OR CHOSE NOT TO ASSOCIATE WITH THIS COALITION.

4. COALITION IN FACT HAS OPERATED AS SUCH FOR LAST  
FEW WEEKS, HOLDING NUMEROUS MEETINGS AT WHICH EACH  
PARTY HAD A REPRESENTATIVE. GROUP'S SELF IMAGE HAS BEEN THAT  
OF REPRESENTING SILENT MAJORITY OF VOTERS WHO ARE AGAINST  
FASCISM AND COMMUNISM (WHICH THEY EQUATE). ANTI-COMMUNISM  
LIKELY TO BE MAIN CAMPAIGN THEME OF COALITION, WHICH  
HAS NOT YET ISSUED A JOINT PROGRAM (SEE REPAIR FOR PROGRAMS  
OF COMPONENT PARTIES).  
SCOTT

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL PARTIES, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 SEP 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Subject:** PORTUGUESE RIGHT TO UNIFY  
**TAGS:** PINT, PO  
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